

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board members present: Ken Pederson, Dave Kiecker, Larry Vettleson, Kory Sonsteli, and Scott Balstad

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Marea Gryskiewicz, and Joan Lee

Meeting called to order at 8:35 am by Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve March 16, 2023 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

**Secretary's Report:**

Approve February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Kiecker.

**Financials:**

Approve the March 2023 Financial Reports and Treasure Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Kiecker.

**Old Business:**

Vesledahl Wetland Bank: There will be a landowner meeting with SHRWD, MnDOT, and BWSR present. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update to area landowners and provide them with the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns they may have. This meeting will also include a review of the permit process MnDOT has established, with BWSR review, for routine maintenance. This meeting has not be heavily advertised and the SWCD will post an announcement to the area papers and supervisors and staff will reach out to landowners in the area of the Bank.

North Pod Meeting (TSA): The next meeting will be held April 4<sup>th</sup> in TRF. Rachel is unable to attend but Marea and Scott will attend.

**New Business:**

Approve paying office rent. Total amount is \$2,973.80. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Approve Canceling CS-21-02 for Scott Lundberg for a Shoreline Restoration. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve encumbering \$3,420.00, CS-23-01, for Scott Lundberg's Shoreline Restoration from Soil Health Cost Share 2023. Total project cost is \$6,820.00. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve RIM Violation for John Sather in Columbia 9. 1.3 acres of the perpetual easement has been converted to cropland violating the terms of the easement. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Discuss entering into a contract for services with the City of McIntosh for lagoon pond testing, this would be billed as hourly and on an as needed basis. Based on conversations with the City, MPCA requires samplers to be licensed to test lagoon ponds. The City thought we may have already had the license which is why they reached out. Since we don't have the license we will no longer pursue this.

## **Reports:**

### **NRCS Report:** Laura Schnapp

EQIP- sign-up 1 so far 3 applications selected for funding the- 2 high tunnels, 1 cropland. Sign-up 2 cut-off date is March 24. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of apps new socially disadvantaged applicants, along with those unfunded in sign-up 1 that include climate-smart ag. and forestry activities will be assessed for funding. were completed ahead of the deadline (see attached). Obligation deadlines are April 28<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> for sign-ups 1 and 2, respectively.

CSP renewal- 2 of the 3 who were eligible applied.

CSP Classic- 12 have been selected as high priority. I am actively working on assessments.

The workload for processing FSA 1026s is large in McIntosh. For the ones that don't get sent off to the compliance team I have been able to stay ahead of required processing times. 12 processed since the last meeting. Another 11 were received yesterday.

There are a lot of meetings and trainings ongoing. I attended the March SH1W1P advisory committee meeting, a NRCS Team meeting, a NRCS Inflation Reduction Act rollout training, and several cover crop webinars so far in March. Soon I will participate in additional cover crop trainings, NW Area NRCS meeting, an NRCS easement training.

Coming up in March/April:

General CRP Signup 60 through April 7 (see factsheet)

Trainings, NRCS NW Area and all employee meetings

EQIP contract building & CSP assessments

### **Member Reports**

Balstad: No report

Pederson: Attended the SHRWD 1W1P Advisory and Policy Committee Meeting. Area 1 Meeting is next Tuesday in Mahnomon.

Kiecker: No report

Vettleson: No report

Kory: No report

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Rachel:**

Meetings/Training:

- Clearwater 1W1P PWG Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P Advisory and Policy Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P SC Meeting
- Area 1 Meeting
- WCA Meeting with Tom Hutchins

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Internship Position – Still open
- Project Tracker
- Policy Handbook
- RLWD Due From Other Government

WCA:

- RLWD Permit Impact Notice Letter
- Violation Notice Letter
- Multiple Violation Follow Up Letters
- Inquiry Follow Up Letter

Feedlot:

- Annual Review Completed: 100%

Marea:

Meetings/Trainings:

- WASCOB Review with Cassie Ahmed (x2)

WASCOB:

- 1 design in East Polk County
- 2 Mahnomon County

Other

- 2023 Lake Leader
- MN Geologic Atlas
- WCA Setback Map

Jenna:

Buffers:

- Desktop reviews

Feedlots:

- Annual Review

Trees:

- Deadline passed – Accepting late orders
- 73 orders (3850 trees sold)

Other:

- Rainfall Data

**AgBMP Report:** Rachel shared an email from Pennington SWCD. The current waitlist for funding could be over a year and a half wait. Pennington warned that bridge loans must not exceed 12 months and landowners need to be careful with this as the MDA will deny applications that have had a bridge long for over 12 months because they view any loan over 12 months to be a conventional loan.

Other/Open Discussion

**Next Meeting April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8:30am**

Motion to adjourn at 9:41 am by Kiecker, Second by Sonstelie.

Scott Buehler  
Secretary

Apr 20, 2023  
Date

